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AGRICULTURE.

FARM WORK FOR DECEMBER.

Blow, blow! ye wintry winds, and bid the farmer to work!

Water has come, cold, and hard weather. The sun has lost his power. The north winds rule on land, and stormy seas. Come mariners! away! and tempt no more the treacherous deep, while Boreas holds the reins.

Frosty winter—welcome to youth whose warm blood quickens with approach of leisure—of holidays on skates, and sleds, and rackets. The time may come when you will hail, with benighted pleasure, the returning sun, and bid warm weather welcome. When your frosty hands will cover, and retreat before the elements that mock old age.

The first care of the farmer, when winter comes, is to live stock that look up to him alone for sustenance. They are dumb and need his special care. They suffer more from neglect at this season than in March, for their forage is entirely changed in a day, and dry food is substituted for sweet pastures.

The round turnip that you have carefully stored should now be freely parceled out. They gain nothing by keeping, and they are liable to be spoiled by frost. They will never be more serviceable to your young stock than in the month of December. Feed out freely now and you shorten their winter—find out the food of fiddler.

Cows in milk, and fattening oxen, need roots. Cows may have turnips and carrots and beets. Too many turnips may injure their milk. But one peck each day, given with regularity to a cow, has injured no milk that we have ever tasted.

The old horse will care but little for your turnip feed. But carrots he will not forget after he has been once introduced to them. Carrots give old dabbles a glossy coat and a nimble gait, without engendering cold, or breaking out his grinders in mauling. Feed freely full in these first cold days, and you will need the less in March.

If the rye and oats and wheat and barley are not all threshed they should be, for fear of rats and mice and dirty hens. The only apology that can be offered for deferring this business to improvement, is the want of leisure arising from the weather. In the farm. We have had so much good out door weather, since the grain harvest, that we have hardly had time to look into the grain stacks.

Wood should be hauled in the winter season, and December is usually the best month for this business. January and February are more windy months, and the snows are piled up too deep for good sledding.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS should be constantly attended in winter while the funds hold out. Parents and guardians, see that your young people lose not a day's attendance on your district schools. One indulgence leads to another, and certificates in excuse to one is a plague to the master.

An order to have your boy dismissed half an hour before the school closes, creates as much and more confusion in a large school than rudeness in the morning. Don't perplex a faithful schoolmaster by interfering with your special legislation. General laws are more equal, and the rules of the school must be established by him who presides over it.

If the master proves a tyrant, as some masters will, let him be punished by the regular tribunals. He must be made to know, if he knows it not, that he has no absolute power to do as he pleases with his charge. If he punishes unreasonably, he is himself liable to punishment.

A full knowledge of this truth will not weaken the authority of a reasonable master; and children are not made more unruly by a knowledge that the master cannot play the tyrant with impunity.

HAY AND STRAW CUTTING.

We are more and more in favor of cutting up fine straw and hay and stalks that are to be the support of cattle through the winter. We have some times argued that the best kind of hay completely cured, could not be much improved by cutting fine; and that horses may as well fit it with their teeth as to "double gentlemen" to eat it for them.

But we are coming in favor of cutting fine all kinds of hay and straw and mixing with them a little meal and wetting the whole.

A horse that is worked will fill himself sooner, having more time to sleep and rest, when his hay is so prepared; and cows in milk evidently yield their milk in greater abundance on cut and moistened hay and meal than on dry food of the best quality.

But however this may be it is to be considered by all farmers that much of the hay that is fed out is not of the best quality; that even horses are forced to eat hay that is not well cured, and that straw of all kinds is so coarse that cattle cannot be expected to thrive upon it, though it may keep them alive.

Straw therefore and the coarse kinds of grass ought to undergo some preparation before they are offered to be masticated by cattle. It may not pay the cost to cut and moisten all the winter food of the young cattle. But cows, working and fattening, as well as horses, may be fed better, and at much less expense on cut feed than on any other.

One of our neighbors, who looks closely into this matter, tells us that he keeps his horse on this kind of feed at half the cost of good hay. His horse is large, and would eat two hundred of good hay in a week, if he was kept on hay alone. But his cut straw and meal during the last winter did not cost him half the price of two hundred of hay.

Hay was sold in many places last spring for one dollar per hundred, while imported corn ranged from 50 to 70 cents per bushel.

Hay is not now quite so high, and corn is higher. But our neighbor saved more than half the cost last year, and he has no doubt he now saves fully half by the use of a straw cutter. And his horse performs more labor than he would on the best of hay without grain.

There are various kinds of straw cutters in use. At Baltimore, a few years ago, we saw a kind that was called a "high price of eighty dollars." Horses there have long been used to cut feed. The more straw there is, hay, and grain is cheaper there than at the north.

TOWNS' Straw Cutter seems to be the one that is most approved by those who have tried them. Our

neighbors, Bagges, Nourse & Co., have sold a large number of them, and we find that purchasers who have used them for two years past are well pleased with their performance.

The price of these cutters bears no proportion to those sold in Baltimore; ten or fifteen dollars being all that is asked for a straw cutter of the best kind. We believe that all farmers will find their account in preparing their food for their next crop. Cows that give milk in winter absolutely require moist food to fill their udders. A little wetting, and a little sprinkling of meal will make much difference in the quantity of their milk.

Have any of our farmers tried extensively the plan of steaming hay for cows? The theory seems plausible, and we wait to learn if any one has gained enough by it to repay the labor.

ON WATER AND ITS USES TO AGRICULTURE.

It was my intention to have considered in this chapter the most important subject of the *Growth of Plants*; but so intimately is the action of water connected with the growth of plants, that I have thought it best to say something about it in this chapter.

I refer with much pleasure to the series of able essays upon this subject which appeared in the *Scientific American* in the month of October, under the title of "The Protocols of Hydrogen," the perusal of which will render unnecessary any remarks, except those which bear directly on the uses of water to the vegetable world, and its action in the soil.

1st. The uses of Water to Vegetation. As water is the most universally present of any of the substances which enter into the composition of plants, it may be expected that the Creator has endowed it with a variety of uses, and as it is the basis of all life, it is an indispensable necessity to the life of vegetation—its necessary as air or food to man.

The most striking use of water to plants is in holding in solution the substances upon which they feed. By its aid, silica, lime, potash, soda, organic matter, and other dry substances, are absorbed through the roots into the internal structure of the plants. Without water they could not obtain entrance into the vegetable body at all. Water also is capable of absorbing all the gases upon which plants feed, and probably in the principal vehicle by which these gases are conducted into the living structures. Water will absorb more than its own volume of carbonic acid gas, and twenty eight times its volume of ammonia gas.

In land possessing that quality which is called "alkalinity," or "salinity," we can easily conceive that vast quantities of the escaping gases of decomposing organic matters will become fixed in and absorbed by the soil, and water, which is the principal vehicle by which they are carried away from the pores of the earth and escape in the air, where they would probably be carried away by the wind, to feed the overgrowth and useless vegetation of some neighboring forest, and thus be lost entirely to the cultivated crops.

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burning pent-up walls, make the air as acid and drowsy, as it had, swept over the blustering sands of Arabia—the country—the green fields—the wild woods moisten the air with their balmy breath—soften it with their silent exhalations—and yield a blessed effluence to the atmosphere; which is grateful to the lungs, refreshing to the feelings, and invigorating to the health. Truly, "God made the country and man made the town." If man must live in towns, let him have about him as many of God's dumb living things—the *Taxus*—beeches—oaks—as he can find; and as many plants and flowers as he can get; so that the mists of earth—the city gardens.

The value of water to plants is not confined to such portions as are imbibed by the roots. Vegetation imbibes moisture in many other ways. In the form of Dew; it is gone by leaves, gathering in clustering pearls drops over the foliage of the wide-spreading oak—or bending with its delicate moisture the frail stem of the newly-born flowers. The theory of Dew is very simple, and the cause of its gentle visitings was long looked upon as a mystery—as one of those inexplicable things which the Creator sent to perplex the world; of which none knew whence it came, nor where it went. It was not clearly done, the action of water when it appears in the form of Dew.

The atmosphere contains always a certain amount of watery vapor. A warm atmosphere contains more vapor than a cold one. Suppose, for illustration's sake, a foot of heated air to 100 degrees, holds suspended in it 8 ounces of water. The same space of air at 60 degrees will only hold, say 6 ounces. If, therefore, you cool the air at 100 degrees, holding the eight ounces of water, down to 60 degrees—two ounces of water must be got rid of, because the air at 60 degrees will not hold more than 6 ounces. The two ounces will therefore fall.

Very well—imagine the air on a summer's day to have been heated to 100 degrees, and the great heat will have drawn a large quantity of moisture from the earth—as much perhaps as the air at 100 degrees will contain. The sun goes down; the earth cools; the plants and the leaves of plants cool; these cool the air, and the warm air, which surrounds them, down perhaps to 60 degrees. The air at 60 degrees will not hold as much moisture as the air at 100 degrees did, and the difference must fall somewhere—it does fall—it deposits itself on the leaves of trees, on the grass, and on the flowers, and on the Dew. It condenses most rapidly, and in the greatest abundance, upon the coldest things. Plants are colder than dry mould, a gravel walk, or the dusty road,—and hence the leaves of plants will be driest when they are covered with Dew. The barren road or the sterile waste is not even damped by the evening fall.

The action of water in the dew forms one of the most beneficent and beautiful of the operations of Nature. During the hot day, a constant evaporation is carried on from all places; from useless swamps; from rivers, and the general surface of the earth. These vapors are carried about by the ever-shifting winds, perhaps far away from the place of their absorption, and at evening fall, when they condense and descend upon the living plants—avoiding, intuitively as it were, the barren and useless dry earth, and gathering upon the expanding leaves, which are thirsting for their refreshing moisture.

The whole magnificent scene of action calls for our wonder and gratitude at every stage of its operations. It is a grand distillation ordered by the All-Wise for equalizing the moisture of the earth, and for supplying vegetable life with its great necessity, especially in a dry season, or in arid climates.

I find that the time devoted to this subject has expired—but I cannot dismiss it without saying, in a few brief remarks, upon "The action of water on the soil," at our next meeting. [Phil. Courier.]

SOILS.

Clay Soils—their characteristics and treatment.—Clay soils are usually denominated cold and wet, from their strong affinity to water, which they generally hold in too great excess, and which, when combined with water, which exists in clay, not only combines with the water forming a chemical compound, but the minute division of its particles and their consequent compactness, oppose serious obstacles to the escape of water from the soil, during its growth, various substances are formed, such as gum, starch, woody fibre, sugar, &c. These things are composed of the four elemental substances, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen, in various combinations. Water, which actually it becomes decomposed, and yields up its component parts for the formation of the various compounds which subsist in the plant.

In order to explain this, I must a little anticipate the matter of the next chapter on the subject of manure. The plant, during its growth, various substances are formed, such as gum, starch, woody fibre, sugar, &c. These things are composed of the four elemental substances, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen, in various combinations. Water, which actually it becomes decomposed, and yields up its component parts for the formation of the various compounds which subsist in the plant.

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the central and north-western part of New York. The clays are admirably adapted to the production of most of the grains; and the red and white clays cultivated in the United States. These they yield in great profusion and of the best quality; and the clays of the West are to mow and pasture, and they are styled by way of eminence, *grass lands*. They are justly characterized as strong and lasting soils, and when properly managed and put to their appropriate uses, they are esteemed as among the choicest of the farmers' assets.

Sandy soils and their management. The character and treatment of sandy soils, are in almost every particular the reverse of those of clay. They do not possess the property of adhesive-ness, and they have but little affinity for water, which escapes from them almost as soon as it falls. They have but a slight hold upon the manures which are diffused through them; they are loose in their texture, and may be ploughed at any time, with equal advantage, provided the sowing or planting is to follow immediately.

As clay soils are much benefited by a mixture of sand, so likewise are sandy soils greatly improved by the addition of clay, yet in a much higher degree, it went, as we have already seen, the general rule, to add sand to clay, yet the addition of a few loads of the stiffest clay to a light sand, would in almost every instance more than compensate for the trouble and expense.

For this purpose, the farmer should be thrifty, and in autumn upon a small land previously ploughed, and the winter's frost will effectually separate the particles. It should then be harrowed thoroughly and deeply in the spring, and subsequently ploughed in the autumn. Such a course will be found to be the best, and the result will be equivalent to an equal quantity of the best manure, and will be permanent in its effects. Clay and sand are necessary to each other, as they both contain qualities which are essential to a good soil. They are both necessary to the best, which has the proper proportion of each.

Sandy soils are improved by the frequent use of a heavy roller; it cannot be used too often. They require to be made more compact, and an implement that secures this object, will be advantageous.

Lime, by its chemical action on the constituents of soils, while it separates clay, renders sand more adhesive; and when cheaply obtained, it is always a profitable dressing for sandy soils, and it is a good dressing for all soils, in considerable quantities, has a beneficial effect in smaller portions, produces a striking increase in the crops of sandy soils. Clay marls containing other carbonaceous compounds, giving them a great value to sandy soils. Equally beneficial are ashes leached or unleached, peat, or vegetable manures of any kind. Some calcareous sands, containing a large proportion of lime, are found in Egypt and extensive regions in the Barbary States. These are highly valuable, and when mixed with a little of manure and an abundance of water. Sandy soils can never be profitably cultivated till they have acquired sufficient compactness and fertility to sustain a good growth of grass or clover; and when once brought to this condition, they are among the most valuable.

They are at all times, easily ploughed and worked; they require no draining; and though they are not so fertile as the clays, they give an immediate and full return for the labor and manure bestowed upon them. When in a condition to produce grass, sheep are admirably adapted to preserve and augment their fertility, and to prevent the loss of the soil, their hard hoofs pick the surface closely, producing the same effect as the roller.

Gravelly soils are in some respects similar to sand, but much less desirable, being appropriated to the culture of such crops as require a peculiarly leachy, but in an increased degree, permitting the rapid escape of manures both by evaporation and drainage. Such are calcareous or composed of limestone pebbles, are in a great measure, and when once brought to this condition, they are among the most valuable.

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THE STEAMER ATLANTIC.

It is not certainly known how many passengers were on board, but there can be no doubt that thirty or forty were lost.—Lost to this life and all its enjoyments.—Lost not necessarily—but recklessly, carelessly, mildly.

We have occupied much space in this paper to detail the circumstances and the sufferings of those who were on board this ill-fated steamer. We think it our duty to warn mariners and commanders not to tempt the elements by any rash conduct for which they are not prepared.

This boat was of the largest class. She was made capacious enough to hold six hundred, but was not built strong in proportion to her size. She fell to pieces immediately on striking the shore, and the fall of her timbers was the death of many a passenger.

This vessel, costing \$150,000, was sent to sea without a mast or a sail. Her steam power was relied on to propel and to sail. This was prudent, was it proper, to trust to frail boilers, and more frail tenders, when the old fashioned mast and sail could be so cheaply erected in case of need?

But the seems to have had nothing on board to assist a foundering family of passengers save some life-preservers; very good in their way, but not very certain to run ashore in a high sea. Not a rope was on a single rope was seen but those that the anchors and they all broke, though the anchors were more than half as heavy as they should be for such a boat. They dragged for miles and proved useless to the vessel. Proper anchors and cables would have held the Atlantic secure till the wind was lulled.

Our brave men, it will be seen, saved the lives of twenty persons by means of a plank that he held out, after he had reached the shore. How much better a rope would have been could a rope have been found during the 24 hours that the passengers were balancing the chances of life and death?

The North American steamer which was recently stranded on Long Island, near Eastport, Me., had ropes on board; and by means of one of these, stretched from the vessel to the shore, every person but the fireman was saved. Sixty people got on shore by holding on to this rope. What is the cost of a rope?

But why should any vessel, however constructed, and furnished, put to sea at midnight, a more boisterous night, in a violent gale? Was there any necessity for this? If Santa Anna had been in the rear, with all his host, we would rather face about and meet the whole, than to meet the troubled waters of the Sound on the night before Thanksgiving.

It is said that no passenger was forced to go that night—that each could have rested till another day. But could the crew have a similar liberty? Passengers are never forced to go; they rely on the judgment and prudence of those who are appointed to command; and it is an imperative duty of commanders to protect and to give good counsel to those who entrust life to their keeping.

We trust that this disaster will not soon be forgotten. It ought to be strongly impressed on the memory as a warning to those who seem to be hurrying through the world too fast, too confidently, too thoughtlessly.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Our armies have been successful in Mexico as the promoters of this war could have anticipated.—Gen. Taylor has taken the strong town of Monterey, and he still keeps possession; not venturing to proceed to San Luis Potosi, where the Mexicans under Santa Anna are concentrating their forces.

The recent call for more regiments seems a timely move, for the Secretary of War, Mr. Marcy, on the 22nd of the month, gave notice that no more troops would be wanted. Gen. Scott, too, seems to have had a "hasty call" to join the army; and rumors go that he has promised grand things if he can have a great army and a great deal of money. He wants 40,000 soldiers and 25 millions of dollars, and he will put an end to the war in July or during the season.

The report Tampico has been surrendered to the Americans, and the Mexican force that has been there has been withdrawn to San Luis Potosi, where it seems that Santa Anna means to make a permanent stand, and to defend it to the last. His force is supposed to amount to more than twenty thousand, and is rapidly increasing.

It is presumed that the President intended that Gen. Taylor should advance to Potosi long ago; but Gen. Taylor knew that it would not be safe to advance so far without more troops; as many must be left to garrison the places that he has already taken. And yet Gen. Taylor would feel awkward in remaining where he is, doing nothing but consuming the provisions that have been carried there at such cost. What then is to be done? Gen. Taylor must either call and return to the banks of the Rio Grande, or he must have further assistance to prosecute his march to the city of Mexico. Gen. Scott is therefore needed in this dilemma—more troops will be called for, and more money must be borrowed. Congress will be invited to finish up the work that the President began, and many more millions must yet be expended before we can call all Mexico our own.

We have already spent twelve months in teaching the Mexicans the art of war. They were shy at first, and seemed as skittish as our own militia were in the early battles of the revolution, and in many of the skirmishes of the last war. But a change will come. We have not contemplated a single Mexican District. On the contrary we have expended many by the lawless acts of volunteers and others when it is found exceedingly difficult to restrain.

Our government did not intend to give any offence to the Mexican people when it invaded the Mexican territory. No, the plan was to overrun the country and coax the good people into good will by keeping up the strictest discipline, and paying with hard money for all the food which might be wanted for the army. Mexican market men and women were pleased with such a warfare; and the most enlightened Statesmen there still think that the balance of loss is now greatly in our favor.

Yet as they find that this is not to be a friendly war, except on condition of a full surrender of sovereignty, a vast majority of the people of Mexico would incline to dispose with our trade rather than with their own territory. They are not quite so much pleased with being considered a conquered people as our administration at first supposed they would be. And should the Mexican leaders by any good lack of theirs, stumble on something that they could call a victory of Mexican soldiers, there is no knowing what a little encouragement, a little patriotism, a little advantage, and a sense of great wrong would lead them to achieve.

Should the tide by any casualty turn in their favor there is no telling where it would ebb. Gen. Taylor knows that he cannot retreat ten miles with any safety; and his sick list is so imposing as to dishearten his own troops. More must be done before Mexico is made a slave territory. One hundred thousand troops will be needed if we advance, and half of that number will be needed to effect a safe retreat.

To us it seems a wild scheme to attack the city of Mexico, unless we intend to keep it, and the whole country with it. We might hold possession up to the Rio Grande, and of New Mexico, with little comparative expense, till Mexico could have time to form something of a government that should have power to bind the country, and to treat with us.

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INDIAN HOSTILITY. The Pawnees have laid claim to their share of the spoils of the Mexican war. A train of U. S. wagons filled with clothing and stores &c., &c., for the army, 30 wagons full, was attacked by the Pawnees near the pass of the Arkansas. Forty men accompanied the train; but the Indians numbered 200, and no resistance was offered.

LOSS OF STEAMER NORTH AMERICA. She burst her steam pipe on Wednesday night, on her passage from St. John N. B., via Eastport; she was off Long Island, Mt. Desert, Me. She went on Tuesday morning. A rope was run from the wreck to the shore, and in this the whole crew, save one, and the passengers, 60 in all, were saved from the grasping deep.

It is said that the young French duke, Montepier, who was recently married to the Spanish princess, Maria Louise, cannot speak the Spanish language; and that his bride knows scarce a word of French. Yet as she is but fourteen and has gone to France with her husband she may yet learn to converse with him without the intervention of an interpreter.

HATS, CAPS AND FURS. The large and fashionable stock of these articles at the store of Mr. W. M. Shute, 173 Washington street, deserves the attention of these about to purchase. We would invite them to call and examine there, before purchasing.

Do you know where all drunkards got? said a Scotch pastor to one of his flock that he saw unable to stand alone. "Do you know where they all got?" "Ah sure," said Janet, "they got just where a drop of gude drink is to be found."

The New York Evening Post says, "The horses of the American Cavalry at Monterey are fed on hay from the state of Maine!" The slave states then, it seems, will not have all the benefits of the expenditures of the government, as some of the southern papers prophesied.

BURGLARY IN ROXBURY. The house of Mr. Wilson, on the Dedham turnpike, was entered one night this week by some villain who stole Mr. W.'s gold watch that hung at his bedstead, rummaged his pockets, and then cleared, without disturbing the family.

The gale at the eastward caused the stranding of more than 30 vessels near Mt. Desert, Me. All the hands in the Com. Perry were lost. The bodies of the Capt. and two others were found.

We learn that the stock of the North Atlantic railroad has fallen six per cent. since the late catastrophe of the Atlantic. Yet the boat must go (down) to keep up her credit!

The special election in Missouri for member of Congress has resulted in the choice of McDaniel, Democrat, by 400 majority.

The snow storm of Tuesday week extended to Cincinnati where the snow was several inches deep.

The noted G. W. Dixon has been held to bail in New Orleans for obtaining fraudulently 500 copies of the South American star.

The new Capital of Iowa has cost already \$80,000, and will require \$200,000 more. It is built of marble.

The Acadia, Capt. Harrison, left this port on Tuesday for Liverpool with 42 passengers, besides five for Halifax.

The Troy Whig says the snow was about eight inches deep at that place last Saturday; it was much drifted.

Andrew Stewart of Pennsylvania, the old tariff advocate, has been on a visit to Lowell.

The steamship Caladonia is hourly expected here. Yesterday she had been 15 days out.

This is a vertical, high-contrast, black and white image. It appears to be a close-up of a textured surface, possibly a book cover or endpaper. The left side is light gray and shows some vertical creases and texture. The right side is a dark, almost black, vertical strip with a rough, irregular edge. There are some small, dark, irregular shapes scattered along the boundary between the light and dark areas, possibly representing damage or wear. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

THE POET'S CORNER.

A CALL TO THANKSGIVING.

ADDRESS TO NEW ENGLANDERS.

Come home to Thanksgiving! dear children, come home!

From the North and the South, from the West and the East,

Where'er you are resting, wherever you are found,

Come back to this sacred and joyful feast.

What though the wild wind of November do roar,

Like a trumpet-blast, loud o'er the country's shore,

And the cold rain of Autumn unceasingly pour,

In this cloudburst of Autumn's morning's glow,

We heed not, nor hear it, with fire burning bright

On the ample hearth where you are wont to sit,

Ye will know the glad faces revealed by their light.

And fond hearts will welcome you, e'en at the door.

Your Father is here, and your Mother, whose love,

Though lonely and plain, is more precious than gold;

And your little sister, with eyes like a dove,

And your brother so tall and so sturdy and bold.

And when you shall miss from your circle, a few

Which for many a year have been like to our view,

Do not mourn for the aged! for oh! in her place

A glorified angel is waiting for you.

Come home to Thanksgiving! We pray you come home,

From the North and the South, from the West and the East,

Where'er you are resting, wherever you roam,

Come back to our sacred and joyful feast.

Our ripe fruits are gathered, our corn in the barn,

All ready for "baking," and look "apple trees,"

And Mary, a-kissing her sweetest young ones

Into misters, for fear that your fingers should freeze.

The chickens, all, are all gone from the lea,

But our wheat and turneps are now in the field;

They were carefully culled from each variety;

And our cider (speaking softly) is sparkling as wine.

The turkeys, entirely resigned to their fate,

Stalk quietly around, with a golden or rufous

And the chickens their dusky in silence await,

Asking nothing but plenty to eat, e'er they go!

Our pumpkins are golden as golden can be,

All ready to cook in a golden or rufous

With a tempting crust, white as the foam of the sea,

And light as the snowy daisy wandering by.

Come home to Thanksgiving! But oh, if you come,

Bring back the warm glow of your early youth;

Let it dole to old hearts, where your young hearts were,

Unfaded in feeling—unfaded in its truth!

Cast away from your soul all the dross of the world,

And worship with us, as you did when a child;

In our solemn old church, where your young hearts were,

And your youthful eyes glancing down and mild.

Let us thank God together, for home and for health—

For the friends He hath left us and those that are gone,

For His fatherly hand in giving us wealth,

Oh! His merciful giving when wealth is withdrawn.

And oh, let us pray, that when life shall be o'er,

Let the last earthly rites unto us have been given,

We may meet those who are on Eternity's shore,

And keep a more joy at Thanksgiving in Heaven!

November, 1846. N. Y. Tribune.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Apparitions.

What is there

Which looks like death in life, and speaks like things

Born as the dying world? They come like clouds.

Bygone.

It was a gloomy autumn evening, all

was hushed and still in the interior of the dwelling

in which we sat, while the tall trees without

kept up a continual mysterious and confidential

whispering, as though they had a thousand things

to tell one another; and the wind, which seemed

to come from the distance, and down the wide

chimney and through the long corridors, as if it

had lost something. Or, perhaps all the ancient

things which it sang hundreds and hundreds of

years ago, in a low wailing voice, and in a

melancholy, as if it were a voice of woe.

Sometimes it seemed to go a long way off, and

then, when you least expected it, back it came

again as though it were singing under the win-

dow, or in the very room itself, while the heavy

drapery swayed to and fro with great sympathy.

Presently, in restless mood it went out to play

with the old trees before mentioned, which at

first only shook their heads gently at its frolics,

but afterward, laughed and gambled all their

branches madly, and as if they were laughing

with its sports, came sweeping along the old

corridor and burst upon the room door where we

sat.

Startled a little from our dreamy reveries

we looked hastily up, perceiving that the wind

was not the only thing that was stirring; and

were in the very act of putting the finishing

stroke to the work on which we were employed,

seeking at the same time for the tangled thread

of our former pleasant musings, when a sudden

change, when a passage which he had lately been

reading in a very clever paper entitled "Miscel-

laneous Mystics," but without making any deep

impression upon our minds at the time, came back

like a lightning flash—How often do we say,

"The only true religion is that which is the

house we live in, in which we are sleeping and

resting!"

The words had been uttered in reference to a

spirit-story of a poor emigrant's wife, yearning

for her forsaken home; the door of which was

open wide, and she was sitting just such an

old woman, perhaps, as that which we were

reading of. To our own eyesight this was all; but a certain

woman, gifted with the rare faculty of ghost

seeing, was enabled both to distinguish and de-

scribe this strange visitor who was dressed after

her usual fashion, and wore a sad and troubled

expression of countenance, as though grieving

for all she had left behind.

Not being gifted with the same supernatural

clearness of vision, which must be by no means

extraordinary, if any form of spirit was admitted

at the open door," it was unknown to us.

We only remembered coming suddenly conscious

that the evening was drawing in, and it might

be as well to ring for candles. After which we

were in a train of thought, and in the midst of

the which of all that we had heard and read

of such things came back as vividly as though

it were yesterday; the wind, meanwhile, keeping

coincidence which took place about the same

time. A large Newfoundland dog, hitherto per-

fectly quiet, commenced a series of the most dis-

commodious howlings; and a long, low, wailing

note, had actually scratched up a deep hole in the

grave, which certainly did look very like an

angel's foot. This was repeated more than once,

until they took to chasing him. Not long after

ward a little child, sickly and dying, and from

that hour he never heard the death-rattle again.

Of our own experience in these matters we

have little more to tell; but a whole host of in-

cidents bear at different times, and from some

of our own spirits, and others, which, when

thought of, are full of strange and mysterious

things, and we are tempted to relate a few; for

who does not love a ghost story, however they

may laugh at it afterwards?

The first is told by a distinct relative of our

own, living far away in a quiet country place,

where a belief in these things comes quite nat-

urally. Her father had long been ill, and as she

was thinking of him one summer night, and how

improbable it was that he should ever meet again,

she became suddenly conscious of a heavy weight

as though a head rested on her bosom, and

stretching forth her hand, distinctly felt the thick,

crisp curls which she had played with a thou-

sand times when a child, and which were now

just beginning to be tinged with grey when she

was married and left home. She knew that it

was her father, and yet, somehow she was not fright-

ened, but lay quite still; and presently heard a

low, sweet voice, which she knew to be her father's

which he had often sung and sang to her long ago.

And when his last tones died lingering away, the

spirit, if it were one, had also departed.

Many have said that it was a dream—that she

had gone to bed thinking of her father, and that

she had dreamed the next morning. Well, it might

be so; but it is curious enough nevertheless, that

the old man actually died upon the very night

on which she had been so mysteriously visited.

Our next anecdote was frequently related by

the individual himself, and with a serious truth-

fulness, that seems to have made a deep impres-

sion on several who heard it from his own lips.

He had, it appeared, been only thirty years

married, and his wife, who was early left a

widow, and after struggling with poverty and

ill-health for above twenty years, during which

she maintained herself and child by the painful

remunerated labor of the needle, died at length

of a fever, and was buried in the churchyard, a

meek cheerful spirit to the last, recommending

her orphan boy, with many prayers, to the pro-

tection of Him who is "the father of the father-

less."

For the week or two after her death every one

thought that the poor lad would have broken his

heart for grief, and soon followed. Instead of

which as his passionate violence passed away,

and his yearning affections were repelled and

thrown back upon himself, he became a more

and more cheerful and contented being. And

forgetting all his former misadventures, he

soon became as idle and restless as those into

whose society he seemed heretofore cast.

We will draw a veil over the next few years. It

will be sufficient to mention, that at the time of

which we are about to speak, but as we have

not been able to find out the exact date, we

will be able to have one, at its lowest ebb.

And even those who out of pity for the boy, or

from some lingering recollection of her who was

dead, had hitherto continued his friends, dropped

him, and he was left an orphan, as it were, from

all his friends.

He had been one evening, with some young

companions as wild and reckless as him-

self, and it was late before they thought of

separating. It happened that his friends, who

had been waiting for him, were not at home, and

he was left alone. Most of the time he would

have preferred the high road, although it

was nearly a quarter of a mile farther round,

rather than pass so lonely a spot; but the young

man of whom we write used to make his boasts

of his boldness, and his love of the night, and

he would walk round the green, quiet fields,

the beechen path which he had commenced

out of defiance upon separating with the rest,

and away upon his lips, and he leaped into

silence.

Late as it was a female form sat on one of

the grave stones wringing her hands, and swaying

backward and forward, as though in deep

grief. He was alone, and he was alone, and he

turned out of his way to see if there was any

thing he could do for her; but somehow, as he

approached nearer, the figure seemed strangely

familiar—aye, even old bones, with their

features, and their hair, and their dress, and

their manner, and their very aspect, as if

it were the same person who had been dead

for all his years. He stood staring at it, and

he was not at all surprised, and he was not

alarmed, and he was not at all surprised, and

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